

TOWN BOARD

The Town Board, Town of Highlands, held a Workshop on Monday, April 26, 2010 at Town Hall, 254 Main St, Highland Falls, NY at 7:30pm.

PRESENT:	Edward Magryta	----	Supervisor
	Holly Gokey	----	Council Member
	William Edsall	----	Council Member
	Laurie R. Tautel	----	Council Member
	Mervin R. Livsey, Jr.	----	Council Member
	Justin Rider	----	Counsel
	Lynae Mesaris	----	Deputy Town Clerk

Supervisor Magryta opened the workshop at 7:30pm.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Gerald Jacobowitz, attorney for Sue Kopald, said that he submitted letters to the Town Board pointing out the truth regarding school age children from residential development. According to a study, the 15 unit complex would produce approximately 1-2 school age children. Mr. Jacobowitz also stated that the Town Board is not compelled to approve every zoning request that comes before them. Mr. Jacobowitz further stated that the amount of taxes the Town will receive from a 15 unit apartment complex is greater than what would be received from a business.

Bob Monroe stressed the importance of getting a traffic light installed at Franklin Street and 9W.

Tenel Speidal reminded the Town residents to stay informed about the School Budget and Impact Aid.

John Wood asked the Board when the installation of the water lines on Drew Road would begin.

Supervisor Magryta responded that he was in the process of getting the "ball rolling".

FINANCIAL DISCUSSION

Supervisor Magryta read a "Statement on the Town of Highlands Fiscal Affairs". (A copy is attached.)

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TOWN AUDITOR PRESENTATION/NUGENT & HAUSSLER

Supervisor Magryta asked Gary Theodore, from Nugent & Haeussler, to come and speak to the Board and the Community about taking the first step forward to get ourselves into compliance with auditing requirements with the State requirements and ultimately with public confidence as to the Town's financial condition.

Mr. Theodore said that the last audit prepared by Nugent & Haeussler was in 2003. He does not recommend doing an audit for the missing years, but does recommend that the Town do a review for 2009 which would get the people in the office ready for the 2010 audit. There are two (2) things that need to take place before the review is done. First, the Board will need to put together a fixed asset register and depreciation schedule listing all the assets of the Town and the second one has to do with other post employment benefits. This does not include pension benefits.

Supervisor Magryta asked why Nugent & Haeussler no longer does the audits for the Town.

Mr. Theodore said that the person in charge of providing the information would not provide the information. Even after repeated calls, the information was never received.

Council Member Edsall asked if the State reports need to be done in order for the audit to be done.

Mr. Theodore said they did not.

Kelly Blauvelt, Comptroller, said that there is a lot of work to be done to get ready for an audit and she will need time.

Council Member Tautel asked for a bi-weekly report from the Comptroller.

CORBIN HILL ZONING

A lengthy discussion occurred pertaining to Corbin Hill and the question of the zoning of Corbin Hill.

No action was taken by the Board.

MILLER PROJECT ZONING PROPOSAL DECISION

Supervisor Magryta said that the Board has listened to all the information on the proposal and the Board is ready to move forward with how to proceed with this project. The Supervisor explained that the Board has two (2) options. The first option would be to vote on this proposal, which is the zoning request change from Business to Residential. The secondary option is, because this is discretionary authority, the Board has the option of doing nothing with this proposal.

The Board agreed to do nothing with this proposal and the property will remain as is. (*Note: Council Member Edsall recused himself from any decision due to the proximity of his property to the subject property.)

CENSUS UPDATE

Council Member Gokey called the Town's Regional Census Director about having a census day. Ms. Gokey is waiting to hear back from her.

BURNING REGULATIONS DISCUSSION

Council Member Edsall doesn't see the need for burning and recommends chipping instead. The whole process of getting a permit is cumbersome. If the Town is going to allow burning, the process would need to be streamlined. Mr. Edsall is also concerned with the environmental and health issues associated with burning.

Mr. Rider said there are a number of provisions in the current Town Code that will need to be changed, or can't be enforced, based on the new State regulations. Changes to the code will necessitate a Local Law which will necessitate a public hearing.

Supervisor Magryta would like to have more concrete questions and answers for the next workshop. The Supervisor also encourages the residents to contact the Board at the Town Hall with any questions/concerns they may have.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Bob Monroe asked if the Board was going to do anything about the piece of property on 9W that is used for storage.

Mr. Rider said if there are code provisions that the property owner is in violation of, the Building Department can issue a violation notice.

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Supervisor Magryta said that the Town has the ability to modify zoning with business property.

Frank Cassano asked what happened to the Dial-A-Bus.

Council Member Tautel explained that the bus was in the garage for repairs, but should be back in service soon.

Council Member Tautel would like to have the budget workshops at 7:30.

Supervisor Magryta scheduled a workshop, strictly for the purpose of discussing the current budget situation, on Monday, May 3, 2010 at 7:30pm.

Council Member Tautel made a motion seconded by Council Member Livsey to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 10:20pm.

MOTION CARRIED: 5-ayes (Magryta, Gokey, Edsall, Tautel, Livsey)
0-nays

Attest,